

△
M3/B16
UAC
69/1

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 9999 07939 336 7



△ 1
m3/DIG 2
UAC 3
69/1 4
5
6
7
8

THE BOSTON URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A Program For Citizen Participation

Room 801, City Hall,
Boston, Massachusetts,
Monday, December 15, 1969,
5:30 p.m. o'clock.



I N D E X

Page

3 Speakers:

4	Mayor Kevin H. White	5
5	John D. Varner	9
6	Dave Davis	13
7	Selection of Interim Executive Committee	22
8	Questions	27
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		



1 MR. UNDERWOOD. Ladies and gentlemen, my name is
2 Richard Underwood. I am Director of the Boston Urban
3 Affairs Committee.

4 I want to thank you for coming out on a somewhat
5 blustery evening to begin Mayor White's program for
6 citizen participation on a city-wide level for the
7 City of Boston.

8 The purpose of BUAC is to provide a vehicle for
9 meaningful citizen participation on city-wide programs
10 affecting the City of Boston. In the meetings to come
11 and the months to come, it is hoped that you will be able
12 to engage in meaningful activity, together with the
13 various line departments of the City of Boston.

14 This is not the first attempt for a city-wide
15 citizen participation group. Previously, there was a
16 Citizens' Advisory Committee of some 300 members. It was
17 found that a membership of such a size, rather than being
18 an aid to citizen participation, frequently became
19 unwieldy. Therefore, it was thought that a streamlining
20 process was necessary, and this has resulted in the
21 formation of the Boston Urban Affairs Committee.

22 The majority membership of the Boston Urban Affairs
23 Committee is coming from the various neighborhoods of the
24 City of Boston, and the majority membership of the Boston
25 Urban Affairs Committee is composed of residents of the



1 City of Boston.

2 All of you have received a letter of appointment as a
3 member of the Boston Urban Affairs Committee from Mayor
4 White. You have received an explanation of BUAC in not only
5 this booklet but a detailed experience of the Boston Urban
6 Affairs Committee.

7 You have also received a list of your fellow BUAC
8 members, accompanied by a biography. I hope you have
9 considered that, for later this evening we hope that after
10 your review of the various biographical backgrounds of your
11 fellow BUAC members, you will propose nominations for an
12 Interim Executive Committee that can study the possibilities
13 for the internal structure of BUAC and make a recommenda-
14 tion at a later date to the general Committee, so that you
15 can determine for yourselves what the actual internal
16 structure of the Boston Urban Affairs Committee will be.

17 By way of general information, I would like to advise
18 you that the Boston Urban Affairs staff, not only myself,
19 but the other members of my staff, operating out of the
20 Boston Redevelopment Authority, are available five-six-seven
21 days a week, and you do not have to wait for meetings in
22 order to seek any information we may be able to supply you.

23 In addition, the Urban Renewal library of the Boston
24 Redevelopment Authority, which is thought to be one of the
25 finest on the East Coast, has been made available to you,



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2015

<https://archive.org/details/programforcitize00bost>

1 so if any of you wish to use its resources, merely contact
2 us and we will see that this is done.

3 In addition, if any of you wish tours of the Boston
4 Redevelopment Authority, so that you can learn firsthand
5 what goes on in day-to-day activities, arrangements can
6 also be made for this.

7 Before we go on to the business aspects of this
8 meeting, I would like to introduce some of the gentlemen
9 who have played a major role in bringing about the
10 formation of this Committee.

11 Our first speaker really needs no introduction to you.
12 It is through his leadership and his constant attention
13 that we have been able in the past few months to get this
14 group organized and actually functioning. It gives me
15 great pleasure to present to you the Mayor of the City of
16 Boston, Kevin H. White. (Applause)

17 MAYOR WHITE. I don't want to be redundant. I think
18 that Dick Underwood covered the purposes for which all of
19 us are here today, and I want to be brief, and I don't
20 want the brevity in any way to be interpreted as a
21 dimension or criterion for my enthusiasm for the project
22 or the work that has to be done.

23 I am here, in a formal sense, to say "Thanks" for your
24 attendance and, more important, for the contribution that
25 I hope that each and every one of you will be able to

1 make. Dick said this isn't the first occasion. I look
2 around the audience, and I see a number of people who have
3 worked in endeavors of this nature in the past, have
4 attended one meeting after another, the creation of one
5 body after another, whose functions were similar to those
6 we proposed tonight, and maybe what I am thankful about is
7 that your energy, your enthusiasm, maybe your perseverance,
8 above all else, hasn't diminished, and I think sometimes
9 we meet with a sense of saying, "I have heard this song
10 before," and the truth of the matter is that you have.

11 This is not the first time, and it may not be the last.

12 I have no confidence or certainty for a moment that what we
13 are doing tonight is the final structure of city organiza-
14 tion and citizen participation, but I am convinced that what
15 we are endeavoring to do, whether it's under the old body or
16 under a new one now, is right, and that's primarily that the
17 city cannot function without a great deal of citizen
18 participation, not at all a new theme, but what does worry
19 me is that I don't have the confidence, nor will I for many
20 months to come, that maybe we have struck out on the right
21 road.

22 What we are endeavoring to do here is to pare down,
23 to streamline, to take those that have already been over the
24 road, whose enthusiasm has not diminished but whose
25 experience has grown, with the hopes that this time we

1 might avoid some of the errors of the past. I think it's
2 a propitious time to start.

3 I don't identify it just for that purpose, but the
4 whole hallmark of my administration, right and wrong, with
5 all its maybe limited successes, depending on how you
6 view it, and its fair share of errors, has been basically
7 citizen participation. It was the whole thrust of the
8 Little City Halls, something that I am convinced is the
9 right approach and something I would not say now, nor have
10 I said thus far, is the epitome or the answer, because that
11 program, too, has its problems, but I say it's a propitious
12 time for one reason, because, although we have been citizen
13 oriented, although we have tried to turn the whole
14 administration around to make it more responsive, the truth
15 of the matter is that, at least for myself and I think for
16 most of us in the administration, the past two years have
17 been primarily years of reaction, years in which we
18 reacted to crises, gone from crisis to crisis, and I see
19 men in this room, whether it's Monsignor Pitaro or whether
20 it's some people I was just talking with from West Roxbury,
21 I am saying I just responded to you, it seems to me, a month
22 ago for one situation or another, and that we really can't
23 make any sustained progress as long as we are reacting, and
24 I think we have passed the stage of incubation, I think we
25 have taken the first faltering steps, and I think now we

1 can begin to do what really counts, and that is to plan and
2 to plan effectively city-wide.

3 All I am asking you now, whether it's a blustery night
4 in December or whether it was a warm day in June -- the time
5 of the year doesn't make any difference, what does is your
6 commitment -- and what I am asking you to do is try something
7 again a little different but much the same that you tried
8 before, and I am confident, learning from the lessons of the
9 past and with the leadership that is being given, with Dave
10 and Dick and Jack Warner on my left, this is not sham, it's
11 not surface, it's meant to be a program that we hope will
12 work, and it can't without your help. (Applause)

13 MR. UNDERWOOD. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

14 Another gentleman who is in the forefront as far as
15 citizen participation, not only in his present function,
16 but previously as Park Commissioner of the City, has been
17 the man who is my immediate supervisor, a man who has been
18 the day-to-day impetus for the organization of the Boston
19 Urban Affairs Committee.

20 When I was Chairman of the Boston Election Commission,
21 Jack Warner one day last September asked me up to his
22 office and said he was very much concerned that the Boston
23 Redevelopment Authority could be validly criticized for the
24 lack of citizen participation, not only city-wide, but at
25 the grass roots level. He asked me to take on this

1 assignment. I gladly did, but if it hadn't been for Jack
2 Warner's day-to-day encouragement and ability to support
3 the programs that we are beginning to get going, this
4 meeting wouldn't be possible tonight.

5 It gives me pleasure to introduce to you the Director
6 of the Boston Redevelopment Authority, John D. Warner.

7 (Applause)

8 MR. WARNER. Thank you very much, Dick.

9 Mr. Mayor, ladies and gentlemen, I think I should begin
10 by saying publicly what lots of people have been saying
11 privately around the City for a long time: The Boston
12 Redevelopment Authority needs help.

13 That's the reason that you are here tonight. Very
14 frankly, that's one of the most important reasons that you
15 could be anywhere. For many years, the Redevelopment
16 Authority has been a large, perhaps too often boisterous
17 agency that has been, to echo the Mayor's words, reacting
18 to various crises around the City.

19 As I look around this room, I can see people who
20 have been in to see me within the last few days on questions
21 of transportation, on questions of residential development,
22 questions of commercial growth, and, without exception,
23 we are consistently reacting to a situation that walks in
24 the door on us.

25 This is ironic and, as a matter of fact, is not as

1 it should be, because by law the Boston Redevelopment
2 Authority is the City planning agency and by law I am
3 supposed to be the City's planning officer. We should be
4 pointing out places for the City to grow and go to, rather
5 than waving sometimes frantically to "Follow us" or, too
6 often, "Hold it for a minute."

7 The days of massive federal spending are over for the
8 moment. The days of "grab the federal money and run" are
9 over. This meeting tonight inaugurates what must be a new,
10 realistic, honest-to-goodness era of planning with people
11 for the Boston Redevelopment Authority, because in the
12 next few years the pressures that we are going to get will
13 be generally the pressures of private money and the
14 expenditure of private money within the City. This will
15 be to meet the housing crisis and the constantly changing
16 pattern of downtown commercial growth.

17 The transportation needs and attitudes of the City
18 and of the planners themselves have changed a great deal
19 since the days when Father Joyce and I sat on some of the
20 high-level, we thought, urban transportation planning
21 committees, and at that time it was go, go, go.
22

23 Attitudes have changed a great deal. I can't say
24 that Father Joyce's attitude has changed. I don't think
he was too much in favor of go, go, go then, but, as
25 Public Works Commissioner, I was kind of a go, go guy at

1 that time.

2 The fact of the matter is that transportation now,
3 rightly so, comes second to people and comes second to
4 housing. Perhaps the many meetings that you have been to
5 in the past -- and the Mayor puts it very well -- you are
6 asked time and time again to respond and react, and I don't
7 know what the psychologists say, but my belief is that about
8 20 per cent of the world's population is made up of workers
9 and the other 80 per cent are drones, I'm afraid, who are
10 going to follow, so the same people constantly are asked to
11 help and help and work.

12 This is an important request the City makes of you
13 tonight, and it's a most important request that I make of
14 you as Director of the Boston Redevelopment Authority.
15 We have got to get back to neighborhoods, we have got to
16 get back to the needs of neighborhoods. Perhaps the most
17 shocking thing about the City, its loss of the middle
18 class, is the fact that they lost their identification with
19 the neighborhood and felt alienated within their own
20 community.

21 We have got an awfully long way to come back, but I
22 promise you this: If you will put some time and effort
23 into this planning process with us, you may not always
24 agree with what we are doing, but you will know beforehand
25 what we have got in mind, and you will have had your day

1 to be listened to, and you will have had an opportunity to
2 make your argument and to make it in good shape with us.

3 That's a pledge that, in itself, should indicate that a new
4 day is here for the BRA.

5 There's a great deal of talk about the City's lack of
6 resource, our needs for many, many things. At the top of
7 the list usually is money, time could be involved in that,
8 the response of other governmental agencies. People tell
9 us the City is dying, people tell us that the City's
10 resources are almost lost.

11 I don't believe it, because sitting in this room are
12 the City's greatest resource, people who care and who have
13 talent, who have intelligence, who have vitality and who
14 want to be involved in the process of making this City come
15 alive. We need your help, we will work with you, we want
16 you to help us steer the ship.

17 Thank you very much for being here tonight. I hope to
18 see a lot of you in the future. Thank you. (Applause)

19 MR. UNDERWOOD. Thank you, Jack.

20 This program for citizen participation, as you can
21 see by looking over not only this blue booklet, but the
22 other material that we have mailed to you in the past week
23 or so, is on two levels. Boston Urban Affairs Committee
24 is one level.

25 Significant input comes into the Boston Urban Affairs

1 Committee from the Local Advisory Committees that are now
2 in the process of being formed throughout the City. 28 of
3 the 58 members of the Boston Urban Affairs Committee presently
4 now do come from the neighborhoods, and these 28 individuals
5 will be subject to reconfirmation by the Local Advisory
6 Committees as they are set up by the Mayor's Office of
7 Public Service.

8 The gentleman who heads it, the Director of the
9 Mayor's Office of Public Service, is Mr. Dave Davis.

10 (Applause)

11 Mr. Davis is, as you all well know, a former Director
12 of Administrative Services for Financial Affairs. Several
13 months ago, Mayor White asked him to take over the
14 Directorship of his Office of Public Service. Dave and his
15 staff, Joe Smith, who is out in the audience in the rear of
16 the room, are working now formulating 14 Local Advisory
17 Committees that will function pretty much as this group
18 does on a city-wide basis, but rather will be specifically
19 concerned with neighborhood matters.

20 It gives me pleasure to present to you Dave Davis.

21 (Applause) .

22 MR. DAVIS. Thank you very much.

23 I must say it's a lot more fun working with people in
24 neighborhoods than it is with the fiscal matters of the
25 City, because it seems to me that when you are the Deputy

1 for Fiscal Affairs, you hear, you play the same song quite
2 often. It's one of scarce resources and the sort of
3 inelasticity of the tax base, and after a while you get to
4 feel like the slave who brings the bad news to the Pharaoh,
5 and I guess a long time ago they used to knock those guys
6 off.

7 Fortunately, the Mayor has given me a much -- in some
8 ways, a more difficult job, but a very much more exciting
9 job, I think, in working with the Little City Hall program.
10 One of the priority tasks with the Little City Halls
11 this year is the organization of Local Advisory Committees.

12 I want to qualify that word "organization." I do not
13 think of, and neither does my staff think of the Local
14 Advisory Committees as a creature of the Little City Halls.
15 They will be a community-oriented, community-based --
16 that is something that I suppose bodes potential difficulty
17 for a bureaucrat, but they have got to be honest, separate
18 organizations that can organize, that can tell us what's
19 important in a neighborhood, what are the priorities, when
20 we allocate these scarce resources that have to be used for
21 street lighting or for resurfacing, what are the planning
22 priorities in the neighborhoods?

23 Thus, the Local Advisory Committees, while they are
24 important as far as sending delegates to your group, are
25 in our view important in and of themselves, because, I

1 suppose, they are to the neighborhood very much what
2 BUAC is to the entire City, and we intend to use them
3 like this, and we intend to use them as our prime source
4 of citizen -- the place where the citizen plugs into the
5 local Little City Hall and ultimately to the City organiza-
6 tion.

7 Every Manager will have responsibility in putting or
8 helping these organizations come together. The man who will
9 coordinate it from Headquarters and, I hope, will be
10 generally knowledgeable about the progress of Local
11 Advisory Committees is, as Dick mentioned, Joe Smith.

12 If you'd like to write down his name, you can also
13 put down his telephone number, which is 722-4100, Extension
14 786.

15 Because of the Mayor's schedule, actually, we have
16 four which should be underway in January and other
17 neighborhoods to follow as effectively and as quickly as
18 we can move.

19 I am delighted to be associated with this effort. I
20 think it's a good thing that the BRA and other City
21 agencies undertake a cooperative effort. It doesn't
22 frighten me in working with the BRA, in spite of their
23 large staff and sometimes overwhelming talent, and I
24 solicit your inquiries, your suggestions. Give them either
25 to myself or to Joe or to any Little City Hall Manager,

1 as we go down this road together.

2 Thank you very much. (Applause)

3 MR. UNDERWOOD. Thank you, Dave.

4 Now we want to get into the business part of the
5 meeting.

6 It's not the intention of the Boston Redevelopment
7 Authority or the City administration in general to run the
8 internal affairs of BUAC, of Boston Urban Affairs
9 Committee. It is our intention that you formulate the
10 internal structure, you determine your agendas, you determine
11 the areas of interest that you wish to pursue, and we will
12 assist you in making available to you the information you
13 need in order to make meaningful examinations and ultimately
14 significant, meaningful decisions.

15 Now, at all BUAC meetings, I have taken the liberty,
16 as Director of BUAC, that is, Staff Director, to have a
17 stenotypist available, so that we will have a total and
18 complete transcript of what takes place. Now, the results
19 of this lady's tape will be later transcribed and within a
20 few days, within a week's time or so, we will mail this
21 transcript out to you, so that you will have more of an
22 opportunity at your leisure to examine what went on, who
23 said what. For this initial organizational meeting, it
24 may not be so important, but later on, as you are
25 considering some of the programs that very significantly

1 affect the City, I think you will find it an advantage to
2 have a stenographic record of the deliberations that you
3 attended that particular meeting, and also, if you can't
4 make a particular meeting, this keeps you better abreast
5 of what's going on. At least you can read over the
6 transcript and know who said what, what sort of input and
7 output was involved in the entire meeting.

8 Now, I have been asked to serve as Acting Chairman
9 for tonight's meeting. The first order of business we have
10 is the nomination of an Executive Committee.

11 Now, this Executive Committee, it is proposed, is
12 only an interim group that will study the various possible
13 structures of internal organization for BUAC and will make
14 recommendations to the overall 58 membership for its
15 confirmation. This Executive Committee, I would expect that
16 its actual function will only be for a couple of months,
17 until we can pull everything together for your consideration.
18 At such time, taking the recommendations of the Executive
19 Committee, you may come up with an entirely different
20 internal structure than I or some other member of the
21 administration might imagine.

22 It is hoped that within a couple of months, the
23 program for the internal structure of BUAC will be made
24 available to you, you will be able to vote on it through the
25 Executive Committee, you will be selecting your own

1 officers and your own Executive Committee.

2 However, for the purposes of getting things going,
3 so that we can come back to you in the not-to-distant
4 future with a recommendation as to internal structures, I
5 am going to ask you to propose nominees for this Interim
6 Executive Committee that can serve and look into this
7 overall question of the internal structure of BUAC.

8 Now, in the past week or so, the BUAC staff has mailed
9 to you a biographical breakdown of your fellow members of
10 the Boston Urban Affairs Committee. I hope you had an
11 opportunity to consider that.

12 I believe that on each chair this evening a
13 biographical rundown was provided. If you didn't have a
14 chance before this, you should look these over, and we will
15 entertain nominations for the Executive Committee. We are
16 not going to limit it as to any particular size. We will
17 leave open the nominations until it is moved and seconded
18 that the nominations be closed, and for general procedure,
19 for the rest of this evening, not to get tied up in tight
20 parliamentary practices, but I think it would be advisable
21 that if there are any motions made that they be seconded
22 throughout the meeting, just for the question of orderliness,
23 so that the Chair will now entertain nominations for the
24 Interim Executive Committee.

25 Is anyone prepared to make a nomination?

1 Before making any comment in the course of these
2 proceedings, would you identify yourself first, so that
3 we can have a complete record?

4 MR. MADDEN. My name is Bill Madden.

5 I'd like to put up before the membership the name of
6 Dr. Robert England.

7 MR. UNDERWOOD. Is there a second to Dr. England's
8 nomination?

9 A VOICE. Seconded.

10 MR. UNDERWOOD. So seconded.

11 Any further nominations?

12 MR. McDONOUGH. Frank McDonough. I'd like to
13 nominate Reverend James Allen.

14 MR. UNDERWOOD. Is there any second for Reverend Allen?

15 A VOICE. Second the motion.

16 MR. UNDERWOOD. Reverend Allen has been duly seconded.

17 Any further nominations?

18 MR. McDONOUGH. I am Bill McDonough from West Roxbury.

19 I'd like to nominate Jim O'Leary, the student delegate
20 from the University of Massachusetts here at Boston.

21 Jim has been very active. He's the Treasurer of the
22 Senior Class at the University, and I think the University
23 is going to be one of the biggest assets of the City of
24 Boston, and with all the interest on the part of the
25 students today in colleges in Boston, I think he'd make a

1 very good member.

2 MR. UNDERWOOD. Is there a second to Mr. O'Leary's
3 nomination?

4 A VOICE. Second.

5 MR. UNDERWOOD. So seconded.

6 Any further nominations?

7 MR. COARD. I am Bob Coard.

8 I'd like to nominate John Bulliner.

9 A VOICE. I'll second that.

10 MR. UNDERWOOD. So seconded.

11 Any further nominations?

12 MR. GORMAN. I am Dave Gorman from West Roxbury.

13 I'd like to nominate Bill McDonough, who is President
14 of the West Roxbury Civic Association and has been very
15 active in the southwest section of the City.

16 MR. UNDERWOOD. Is there a second to that nomination?

17 A VOICE. Second.

18 MR. UNDERWOOD. So seconded.

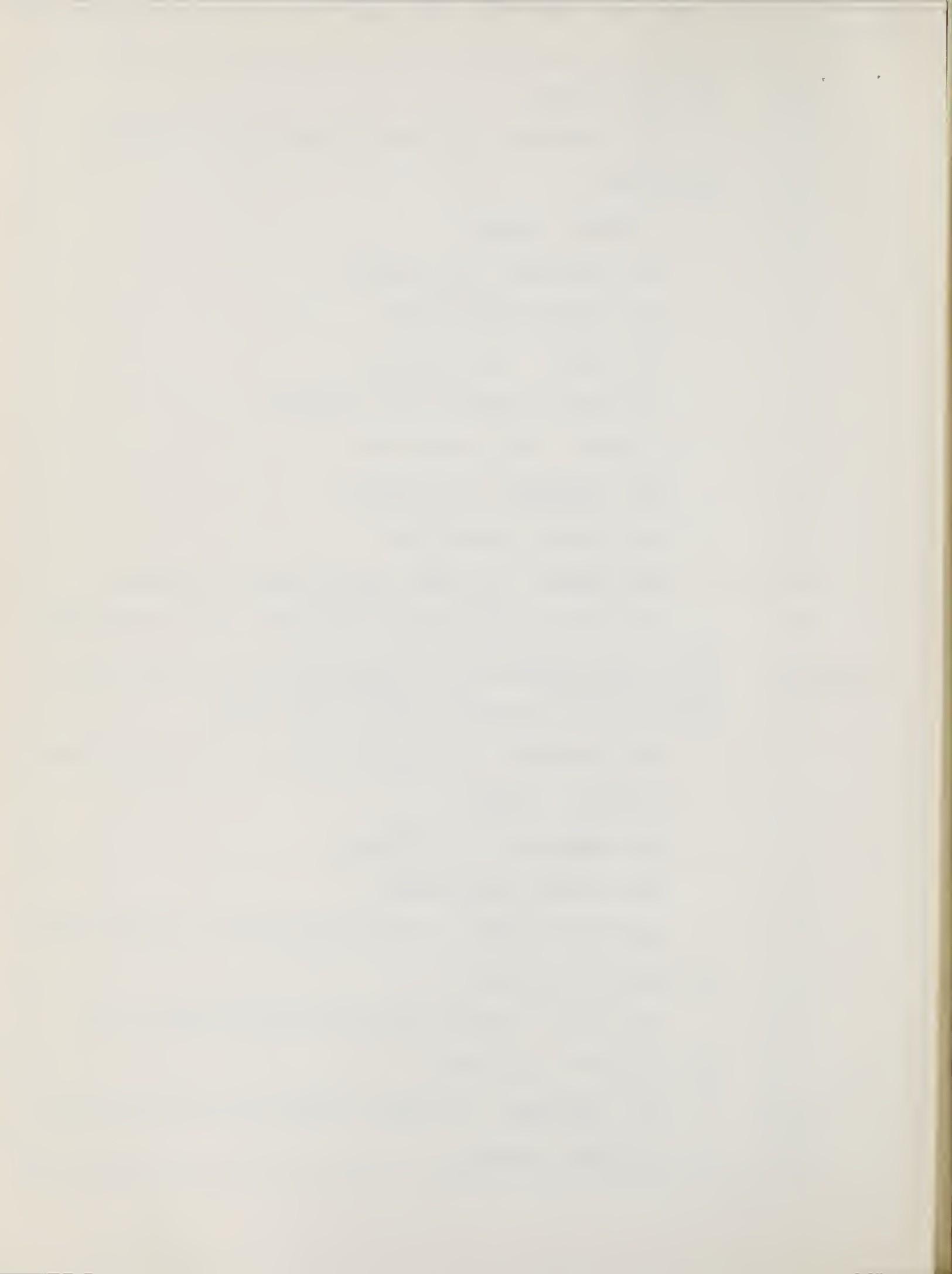
19 Any further nominations?

20 REVEREND DONOVAN. I am Reverend Paul V. Donovan from
21 All Saints in Roxbury.

22 I'd like to nominate Reverend Thomas Fleming from
23 St. Patrick's in Roxbury.

24 MR. UNDERWOOD. Is there a second to that nomination?

25 A VOICE. Second.



1 MR. UNDERWOOD. So seconded.

2 Any further nominations?

3 A VOICE. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to nominate
4 Mr. Hubert Jones of Roxbury Multi-Service Center.

5 A VOICE. Second.

6 MR. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Jones' nomination is seconded.

7 Any further nominations?

8 MR. REED. My name is Jack Reid from South Boston.
9 I'd like to recommend a representative from South
10 Boston, Mr. Scott Mellor.

11 A VOICE. Second the motion.

12 MR. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Mellor has been seconded.

13 Any further nominations?

14 MR. CHIN. My name is Frank Chin from Chinatown, and
15 I'd like to nominate Mr. Guy Benenati from the North End.

16 A VOICE. Second on that.

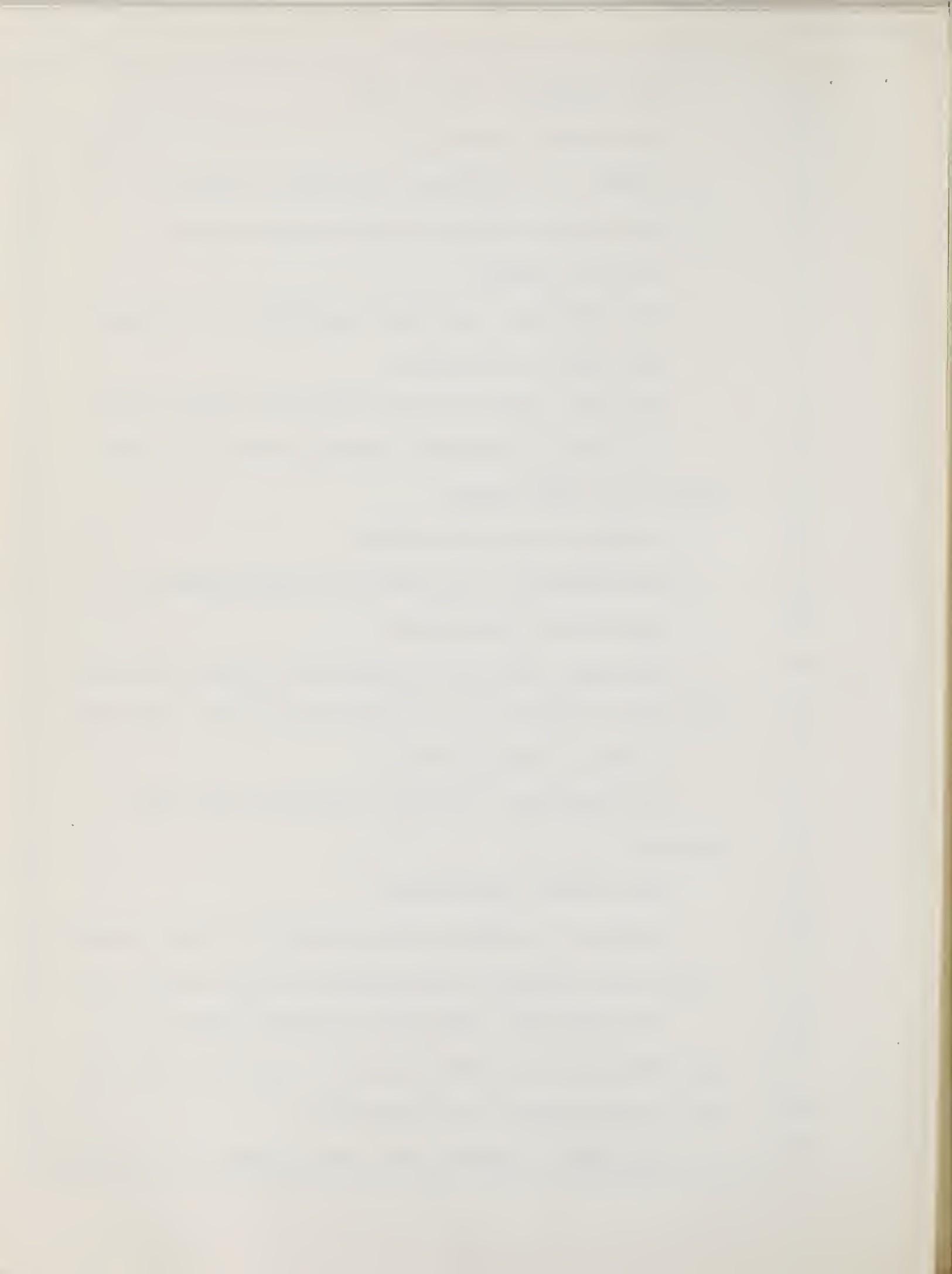
17 MR. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Chin's nomination has been
18 seconded.

19 Any further nominations?

20 A VOICE. I think Mr. Chin should be on that committee.
21 I don't know whether I can nominate a second person, but --

22 MR. UNDERWOOD. Why don't we confine ourselves to
23 one nomination per member for now? I just made that rule
24 up, for the purposes of orderliness.

25 MR. JONES. Herbert Jones from Roxbury Multi-Service



1 Center.

2 I'd like to nominate Archie Williams, Freedom Industries.

3 MR. UNDERWOOD. Is there a second for Mr. Williams?

4 A VOICE. Second.

5 MR. UNDERWOOD. Any further nominations?

6 A VOICE. I don't know Mr. Feliciano, but I'd like to
7 nominate him. I think he belongs on the committee.

8 A VOICE. Second the motion.

9 MR. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Israel Feliciano has been
10 nominated and seconded.

11 Any further nominations?

12 MR. KING. My name is King, representing the Real
13 Estate Board.

14 I'd like to nominate Mr. John Corcoran of the John
15 Corcoran & Company.

16 MR. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Corcoran has been nominated.

17 Is there a second on that?

18 A VOICE. So seconded.

19 MR. UNDERWOOD. Any further nominations?

20 The Chair will entertain a motion to close the
21 nominations.

22 A VOICE. Motion to close nominations.

23 A VOICE. Second the motion.

24 MR. UNDERWOOD. Nominations are duly closed.

25 The Interim Executive Committee consists of 12 members,

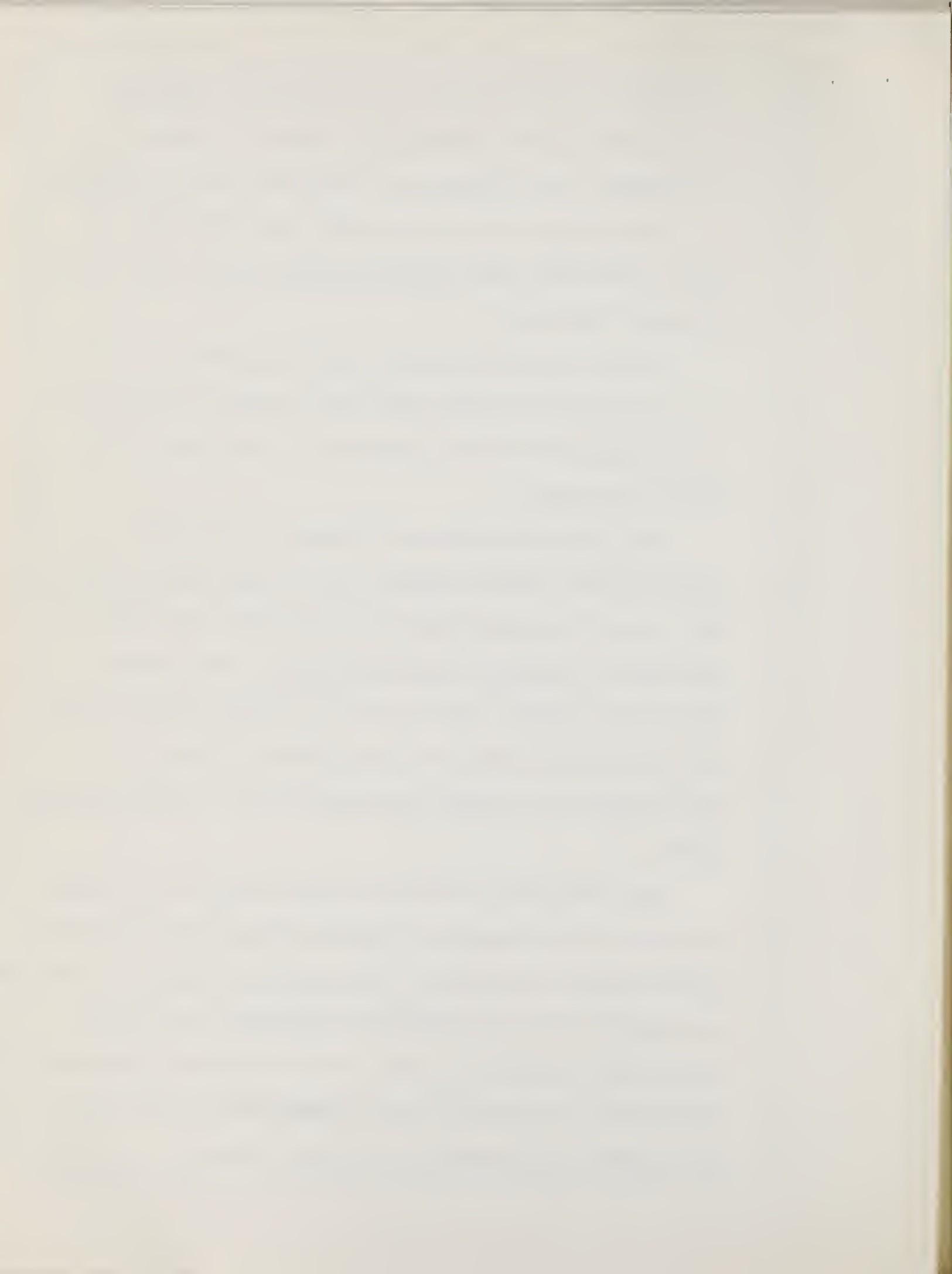
1 Dr. England, Reverend Allen, Mr. O'Leary, Mr. Bulliner,
2 Mr. McDonough, Father Fleming, Mr. Jones, Mr. Mellor,
3 Mr. Benenati, Mr. Williams, Mr. Feliciano and Mr. Corcoran.

4 You will get a full list within the next couple of
5 days of the people that you have nominated for this Interim
6 Executive Committee.

7 We will be contacting the Interim Executive Committee
8 for the purposes of their gathering together to begin work
9 on developing an internal structure for the Boston Urban
10 Affairs Committee.

11 Now, the next question of business will be the
12 agenda for the second meeting, and if I may just presume a
13 bit, one of the significant things that BUAC will have to
14 consider is the City's Workable Program. The federal
15 government requires that the City, in making general plans
16 for the next two years, must have active citizen
17 participation and citizen acceptance of its overall planning
18 goals.

19 Now, the City of Boston is in the process of bringing
20 together and developing its Workable Program for submission
21 to the federal government. The program so approved in the next
22 few months will be the Workable Program for the City of
23 Boston for the next two years, so it's of great importance
24 that BUAC, as one of its first orders of business, if I
25 may suggest so, consider the Workable Program.

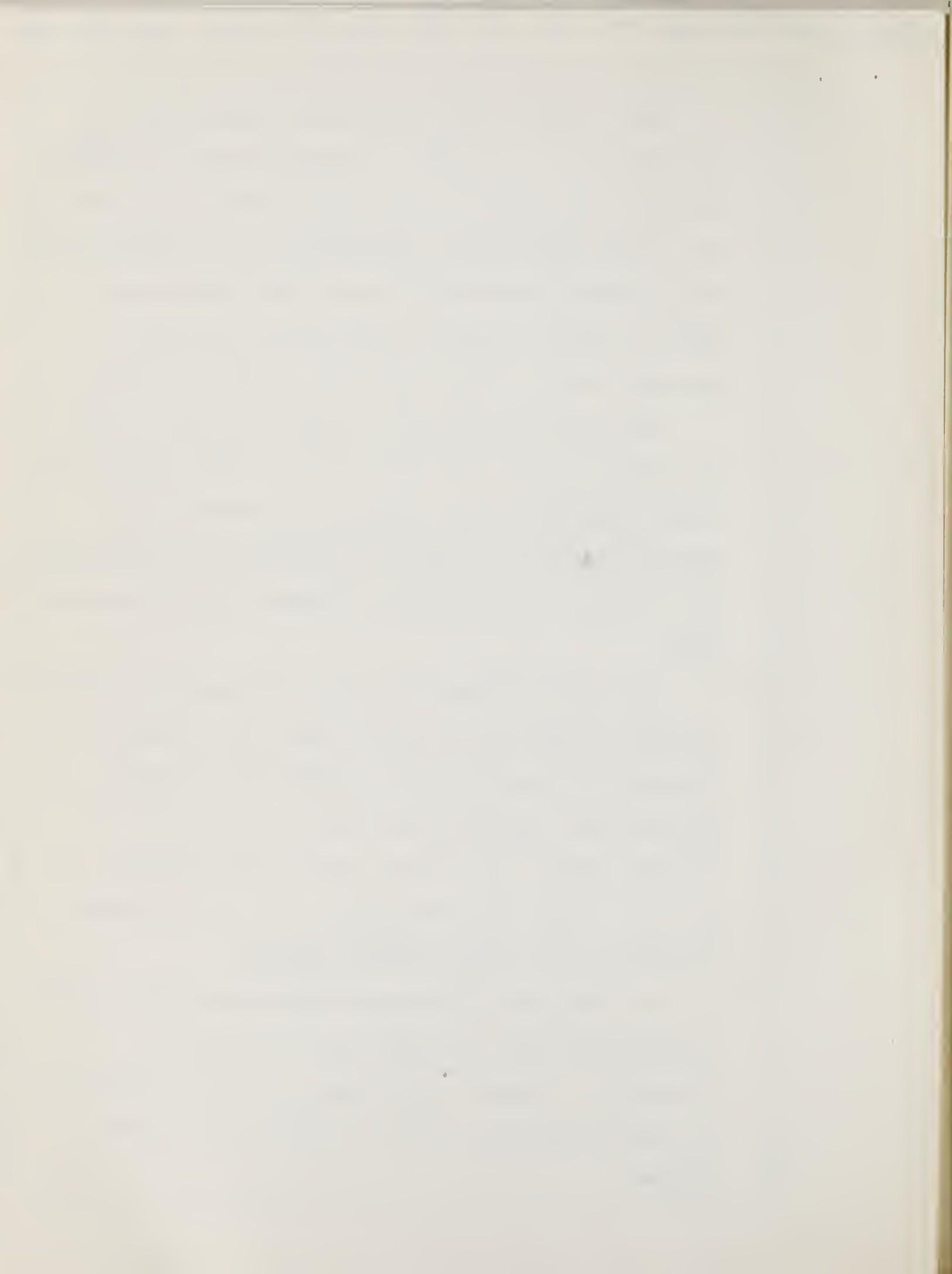


1 Now, the BUAC staff, specifically Thomas Adams, who
2 is sitting here to my left, is preparing quite an extensive
3 memorandum for you on the work of the program, and as far as
4 the citizen participation qualification, he is preparing for
5 you the actual questions and answers that the City of
6 Boston is going to submit to the federal government
7 regarding citizen participation and a Workable Program.

8 You should be getting this within the next few days,
9 and I hope you will find time to look it over, because it's
10 a very important document, because your views on the
11 Workable Program are going to be pretty much binding on the
12 City of Boston, on the federal government, for the next two
13 years.

14 The Workable Program is very, very important. What it
15 involves is seven basic areas of Codes and Ordinances,
16 Comprehensive Community Plans, Neighborhood Analysis,
17 Administrative Organization, Financing, Housing for
18 Displaced Persons, and lastly, Citizen Participation.
19 Most of the major line departments in the City of Boston
20 contribute to the City's Workable Program.

21 As I say, you will be receiving some memoranda on this
22 in some detail, and, of course, you will receive a
23 transcript of tonight's proceedings, so I would suggest to
24 you that you give some serious thought to the Workable
25 Program.



1 We are going to propose that this Executive Committee
2 of twelve members determine the next date, time and place
3 for a second meeting. The frequency of meetings of
4 BUAC is going to be a matter for the EUAC membership to
5 determine, and you will set up how frequently you wish to
6 meet, how long a period of time you wish to devote to the
7 meetings.

8 If you will let the BUAC staff know through the
9 Executive Committee that you eventually select, not just
10 the Interim Executive Committee, but your regular Executive
11 Committee, we will provide the place, equipment and all that
12 is necessary. We plan to have a fulltime staff under the
13 Boston Redevelopment Authority's general administrative
14 setup to service BUAC, so that you will not be without
15 administrative aid.

16 However, the BUAC staff and myself in particular,
17 as Director of Boston Urban Affairs Committee, will in no
18 way enter into the determination of policy or the determina-
19 tion of what views you wish to take on a particular
20 question. This will be left to your free choice and
21 design, to the general membership and the Executive
22 Committee and the officers you select. Our function will
23 be merely to serve you administratively, and I hope that
24 when you are talking to myself or members of the BUAC
25 staff, you will keep this in mind. We will not at any time



1 take a position on a particular question. We are merely
2 going to serve you administratively, to make sure that there
3 is made available to you all of the information you may
4 require in order to have a sensible deliberation and come
5 to reasonable conclusions. That's the specific function of
6 the Boston Urban Affairs Committee staff, no other.

7 Now, we hoped this evening -- I don't want to take too
8 much of your time, because we hoped to keep this down to an
9 hour -- that we would have a question period. I think the
10 agenda spells that out for you. It's going to be a period
11 of time where you ask questions, but there aren't going to
12 be any answers. The questions are going to be recorded
13 by the stenotypist, the staff will work on getting you
14 answers in writing, questions will be in writing, the answers
15 will be in writing for you to study for the next meeting.

16 You don't have to confine your questions to the
17 Workable Program, but the general structure of BUAC,
18 general areas of interest, anything you would like to
19 know for the next meeting that we can reasonably provide
20 the information and the answers to, this is what we will
21 endeavor to do. We would expect that the next meeting of
22 BUAC probably wouldn't take place for a couple of weeks,
23 although this, of course, is going to be determined by this
24 Interim Executive Committee that you have selected tonight.

25 If you will identify yourselves, pose the questions,



1 they will be recorded, and all the members will be given
2 answers to the various questions that are proposed tonight
3 within the next week or so, by return mail, so with that
4 the floor is open to any question.

5 Will you please stand and identify yourself and state
6 your question?

7 MR. ASENUGA. My name is Tomi Asenuga from the Model
8 Neighborhood Board.

9 Is Boston Urban Affairs Council an advisor to the
10 City system, and, if so, will any decisions of this
11 Committee be binding on the City?

12 MR. UNDERWOOD. Any additional questions?

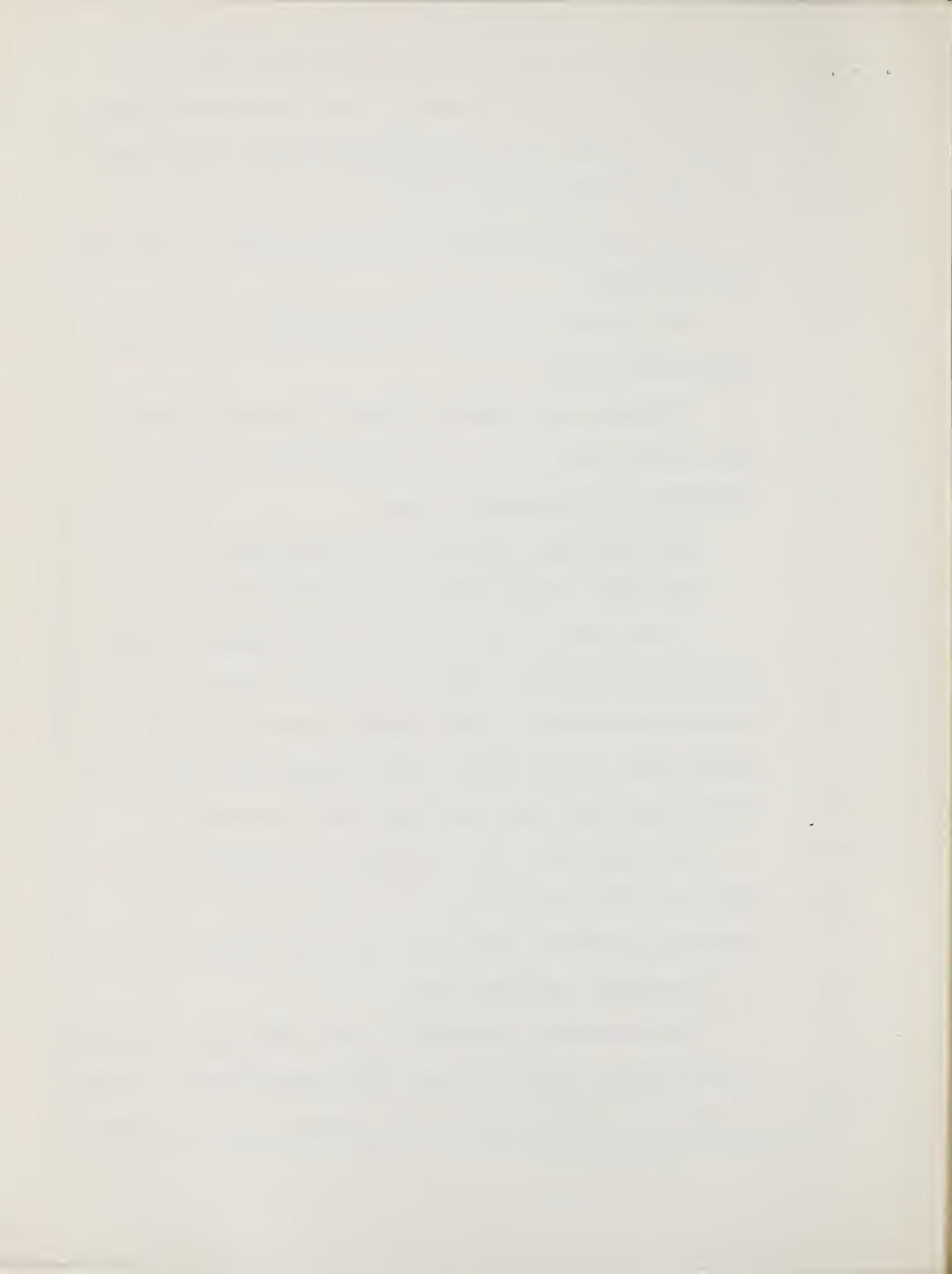
13 MR. BAKER. Roger Baker from the South End.

14 I would like to have, and I think the other members
15 would find it useful, a breakdown of City revenues and
16 budget expenditures for this fiscal year and the next
17 fiscal year, so that some of the planning that takes place
18 can be done within the context of what's realistic.

19 MR. UNDERWOOD. So I understand you accurately, you
20 want the budget breakdown for this present year we are
21 operating in and for next year, as well? Proposed budget?

22 MR. BAKER. Proposed, yes.

23 MR. UNDERWOOD. There may be some difficulty in getting
24 you the budget figures for next year, since they are now in
25 the process of preparation by the various line departments.



1 We can get you what's available. We can certainly get
2 you the figures of this present year.

3 MR. SAPERS. My name is Carl Sapers. I am represent-
4 ing the Boston Bar Association in place of Mr. Cohn.

5 Will this body be considered special municipal
6 employees for purposes of the Conflict Act?

7 I raise this because some of us -- and maybe it's a
8 problem more peculiar to the lawyers than anybody else --
9 are involved on various other levels and with various other
10 agencies in the City, and I think we'd like to know whether
11 we run afoul of the Conflict of Interest law.

12 Perhaps Corporation Counsel could render an opinion
13 on that.

14 MR. UNDERWOOD. This is a matter we will refer,
15 Mr. Sapers, to our distinguished Corporation Counsel,
16 Mr. Gleason, most certainly.

17 MR. FRANK McDONOUGH. My name is Frank McDonough.

18 I would like, if possible, a rundown of BRA activities
19 insofar as housing is concerned in Boston in the last 8 years,
20 and the relationship I would like is the amount of properties,
21 residential dwellings demolished by the BRA and the amount
22 that have been replaced by the BRA.

23 I am not directing this in a critical way.

24 MR. UNDERWOOD. Do you want that by units or dwellings?
25 You want it by units? Right?

1 MR. FRANK McDONOUGH. Yes.

2 MR. UNDERWOOD. Any other questions?

3 MR. WILLIAM McDONOUGH. Bill McDonough from West
4 Roxbury.

5 I'd like to know about the city-wide planning for
6 various city agencies, such as the Park and Recreation
7 Department, plans which they have got off the planning
8 boards and which are going to be reality within the next
9 year or so.

10 MR. UNDERWOOD. That probably, Mr. McDonough, will
11 have to be given to you in a general way, and then if there
12 is a specific area you become interested in, we can come
13 up with specifics on it. We will give you a general
14 review, and then you can pursue it further, if you wish.

15 MR. WILLIAM McDONOUGH. If there are full city plans,
16 such as for Park and Recreation, they'd be specific.

17 MR. UNDERWOOD. Any additional questions?

18 MR. FARRELL. My name is Edward Farrell.

19 I notice in your notes here you have a "re-con"
20 report on Dorchester that is actually due today, and I am
21 wondering what connection the local action committee will
22 have with that report. Is it too late for them to look
23 into it, or is it all completed?

24 MR. UNDERWOOD. We will answer that for you in
25 detail.

1 Just as an aside, that's a preliminary report. We have
2 it up at the office.

3 Do we have enough copies?

4 MR. ADAMS. They will get it in the next mail.

5 MR. UNDERWOOD. You will get that within the next
6 week in the mail to refer to.

7 MR. PITTMAN. My name is Kim Pittman.

8 Can this body have any possible effect on the City's
9 issuance of licenses for zoning variances in residential
10 communities for gas station expansions and so forth, over
11 the protests of residents in the area?

12 MR. REID. I have a question in line with
13 Mr. McDonough's question on activities of the housing in
14 the last 8 years.

15 I would be interested in finding out how many home
16 owners, those who had their own homes, as a result of
17 BRA activity during the past 8 years have been forced to
18 become tenants in this redevelopment type of thing.

19 MR. UNDERWOOD. You mean how many home owners have,
20 through eminent domain, had their dwellings taken and --

21 MR. REID. Right, and are unable financially to
22 become home owners again, and become tenants as a result
23 of that.

24 MR. UNDERWOOD. Fine. Thank you.

25 MR. GORMAN. David Gorman from West Roxbury.



1 We have one question about how much weight the
2 decisions made here in this committee are going to
3 hold with the City.

4 I'd be curious to know what the federal guidelines
5 are, what is required of the City by the federal government
6 in the line of local participation, and how much are federal
7 funds contingent upon that.

8 MR. UNDERWOOD. Something along that line was
9 furnished already, wasn't it?

10 MR. ADAMS. Yes, but that specific question has really
11 not been dealt with yet.

12 MR. UNDERWOOD. All right. Fine.

13 MR. BAKER. Roger Baker again.

14 I would like to have in consistent form the City's,
15 if not everybody else's, proposed transportation plans for
16 the City.

17 There seem to be quite a number of transportation
18 plans floating around. I think the one you work with might
19 be constructive.

20 MR. ASENUGA. Tomi Asenuga again.

21 I would like to have information on the full maximum
22 operation of the local agencies and, as well, a full
23 breakdown of what the various City departments' functions
24 are, because many times you don't know where you have to
25 go to get some of the problems solved.

1 MR. GULLY. William T. Gully.

2 I think I noticed in the nomination of the Executive
3 Committee that there was a lack of representation of the
4 females present here this evening. There are some five in
5 number, and I think it would behoove us to include at least
6 one female representation on the Executive Committee, and
7 my question is, will this Interim Executive Committee be
8 able to expand the nominated committee to include female
9 representation?

10 MR. UNDERWOOD. This Committee has been formed
11 strictly for the purposes of getting us going, to examine
12 the types of internal structure you may wish to have and
13 make a recommendation to the full membership.

14 I would think that probably some of the members may
15 decline to serve on a continuing Executive Committee. I
16 am sure there will be opportunities to name an entirely new
17 Executive Committee. I would think that would be one of the
18 things that an Interim Committee would want to give you, an
19 opportunity to consider a permanent Executive Committee.

20 It's regrettable the nominations are closed, but they
21 are closed. However, I am sure that the female members will
22 find a way of being well represented in the months ahead,
23 if I know females.

24 Are there any other questions?

25 A VOICE. Yes. It's not really a question, but I

think in many ways I join the rest of the group in falling into the category of, as Mayor White said, "We have been here before," and maybe I'm a little out of line, but listening to some of the questions, it seems to me we are starting off the same way we started off before, and that is taking our particular self-serving view and beginning to zero in on it, and it was my impression this was to be an offensive campaign for planning, and the questions appear to be somewhat particular and not related to planning, and I think what we ought to do, at least initially, is begin to look at the overall picture and overall philosophy and begin to fill it in, and I would like to urge that we try to avoid, at least initially, getting off on any particular problem that exists in our particular community, until we get a general plan, so that questions may be more appropriately placed on the powers of this Committee or as to some of the things it can do or cannot do, first whether we are going to do this or that, or can we do that, because last week I had trouble with the DPU or BRA or what have you.

The other committees I served on bogged down, because they got into a lot of that, and it seems to me we should give ourselves a grace period to develop a philosophy before we get into the details, so I would like to urge the rest of the Committee to consider that point of view.

MR. INTERVIEWS. Any further questions? No statements,



1 questions?

2 MR. FARRELL. The number 2,000 has been given often
3 as the number of housing units needed in the City, and
4 whatever figure the BRA feels it should be, I am wondering
5 if they could break down the demand for the number of
6 housing units needed into luxury, medium income, and low
7 income categories.

8 MR. UNDERWOOD. I will tell you this right off the
9 bat, Mr. Farrell, we need more than 2,000 units.

10 MR. FARRELL. Whatever the figure is.

11 MR. UNDERWOOD. All right. We will get you what
12 information we have.

13 MR. MADDEN. Bill Madden from Brighton.

14 Will we receive copies of the working program proposal?

15 MR. UNDERWOOD. Yes, you will. It's being prepared
16 for you now.

17 The Workable Program itself hasn't been finalized yet
18 by the City administration. As soon as it's in print, you
19 will be furnished copies immediately.

20 MR. GORMAN. Dave Gorman again.

21 I'd like to add something to this gentleman's
22 question, the number of bedrooms required per unit, in other
23 words, the number of one-bedroom, two-bedroom, four-
24 bedroom?

25 MR. ADAMS. We will expand that question.

1 MR. UNDERWOOD. Any further questions?

2 Mayor White has asked me to announce that some time
3 in January -- the date will be determined, perhaps in
4 consultation with the Interim Executive Committee -- we
5 would like to have a general reception for the BUAC
6 membership, so that you can personally get to know and
7 to meet the various line department heads of the City of
8 Boston, as well as City Council members and School
9 Committee members. This will be a social function.

10 It was hoped that by getting to talk to some of these
11 people on a personal face-to-face basis, it will enable
12 you to be a lot more effective in what you want to do, so
13 some time in January we will be setting up some sort of a
14 reception for the BUAC membership. We will try to work
15 out the date with the Interim Executive Committee member-
16 ship.

17 Another thing that I'm going to ask the Interim
18 Executive Committee to do is to pick one of the twelve
19 members to be the Presiding Officer or Chairman of the
20 next meeting. It is my desire and the desire of the Mayor
21 and the Director of the Boston Redevelopment Authority,
22 Mr. Warner, that I and my staff serve primarily as an
23 administrative arm or adjunct to your activities, supplying
24 you with facts and figures, perhaps in some cases making it
25 easier for you to get access to various City departments



1 and the information that they may contain.

2 However, I don't think it's a proper role, and neither
3 does the Mayor nor the Director of the Boston Redevelopment
4 Authority, that I be the presiding officer, Chairman of the
5 Boston Urban Affairs Committee. I hope you can understand
6 why I am doing this this evening, because we really were
7 left no other choice, but I am going to ask that the
8 Executive Committee, the twelve members, select from among
9 themselves a temporary Chairman who will serve as the
10 presiding officer at the next meeting, until such time that
11 the internal structure of BUAC has been formulated and you
12 can pick your own permanent Chairman or presiding officer,
13 as well as the remaining officers of the Boston Urban
14 Affairs Committee, so that's something that we are going to
15 ask the Executive Committee to do. It will only be
16 for an interim basis, so you won't be deprived of having a
17 say on who the presiding officers will be. You will, as soon
18 as they have determined some sort of an internal structure
19 to submit for your consideration.

20 Any other questions?

21 MRS. MEHEGAN. Mrs. Rose Mehegan, representative from
22 SEPAC.

23 At this time, I notice my phone number is not under
24 my name, so I think it would be wise for everybody to have
25 my office number, and it's KEnmore 6-2898. For some unknown

1 reason, I don't know why, it hadn't been put on here.

2 MR. UNDERWOOD. We will revise that.

3 If any of you have any questions in the meantime, I
4 believe you have been furnished with our phone number in the
5 Redevelopment Authority, but if not, please take the number.
6 It's 722-4300, Extension 211, 212.

7 Mr. Thomas Adams is my Administrative Assistant.
8 Miss Barbara Creedon is my personal secretary.

9 We also have several staff members of BUAC,
10 Mr. Peter DiRosa, Mr. William Burke, Mr. William Baker,
11 a Mrs. Lucille

12 You will get a complete listing of who these people
13 are, but you can reach us at 722-4300, 211 or 212.

14 If anything comes up in the meantime that you wish to have
15 assistance on, contact us, as one of our functions will be
16 to assist you.

17 Are there any further questions?

18 If there are no further questions, the Chair will
19 entertain a motion to adjourn.

20 A VOICE. Motion to adjourn.

21 A VOICE. Second the motion.

22 MR. UNDERWOOD. Thank you very much.

23 (The meeting is closed.)

THE BOSTON URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A Program for Citizen Participation

Monday, December 22, 1969

I, Nora V. White, hereby certify that the foregoing record, Pages 1 to 37, is a complete and accurate transcription of my stenographic notes.

Certified Shorthand Reporter



